

Northern Europe District Veterinary Command Mission Statement

To conserve the fighting strength by ensuring food safety and veterinary preventive medicine and to provide veterinary care to Military Working Dogs and pets during the full range of military operations throughout Germany, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

Vilseck Branch Veterinary Services, NEUDVC

We are responsible for over 305,000 Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, DoD Civilians, NATO personnel and their dependents in the 4 distinct military communities of USAG Grafenwoehr with two TISA's, four commissaries, seven dining facilities, 21 MWR, 39 AAFES & 2 NATO facilities. We are responsible for all receipt and in-storage food inspection for all of these facilities as well as oversees Food Vulnerability Assessments, ALFOODACTs (which are alerts that require immediate response to our HQ after we determine if a possible food safety problem exists at any of the places listed above) and Installation Support Plans for Grafenwoehr, Vilseck, Hohenfels and Garmisch military communities. The animal medicine personnel in the branch, of which there are three permanently assigned -- one veterinarian who is the branch chief which is a position similar in the types of actions and responsibilities to a company commander, and two animal care specialist -- are additionally responsible for the care of 17 Military Working Dog's and a growing population of over 4800 privately owned animals. The Captain (veterinarian) is also responsible for conducting multiple sanitary audits at German commercial food production plants which, when the plant passes the quarterly audits, allows the plants to sell their products to the US Forces in Europe -- so all the German products you see in the commissary, PX and shoppettes, those plants have been inspected on a quarterly basis by a Veterinary Corps Officer. So far this year (JUL 2009) the Vilseck Branch has conducted 65 audits. Each audit requires from 2 to 4 days, depending on location of the plant, if the audit is an initial, first time visit.

Vilseck VTF POA Services

Hours of operation: Mon-Wed & Fri 0830-1200 and 1300-1600, Thursdays 1300-1600
Closed the last working day of the month, on training holidays, and U.S. Federal holidays.

Location: Building 165, Rose Barracks, Vilseck, Germany

Phone: DSN 314.476.2370 Comm 49 (0) 09662.83.2370

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Please refer to the following website for information on our capabilities, clinic policies, limitations, a list of local veterinarians in the Vilseck, Grafenwoehr area, list of boarding facilities, list of groomers, list of dog trainers, list of animal shelters, and temperament testing information.

http://ervc.amedd.army.mil/vtfPDFs/ERVC_Vilseck_VTF.pdf

Other useful links:

<http://ervc.amedd.army.mil/NorthernEurope.htm>

<http://ervc.amedd.army.mil/AnimalMedicine/default.htm>

<http://www.veterinaryservice.army.mil/pets.html>

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/pet_travel/pet_travel.shtml

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/index.shtml

PET TRAVEL

Please remember that international travel with a pet can cost anywhere from \$200 to \$1000 per pet each way, depending on the type of pet and the size of the pet. Please know that the German state of Bavaria has outlawed certain breeds of dogs and required temperament testing and registration of other selected breeds at considerable owner expense. (Please refer to: Germany and Dangerous Dogs Section)

RULES FOR ANIMALS ENTERING & TRAVELING WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION

In 2003-4, the European Union (EU) established the current regulations for pet travel into and within EU Member States. The rules are stringent and not necessarily uniform among the member states; the United Kingdom, Ireland, Sweden, Malta, and Finland in particular.

It is the responsibility of pet owners to ensure they meet the requirements of the country to which they wish to take their pet. It is critical that pet owners start early and plan accordingly with their military, local and/or federal veterinarian for non-commercial pet travel to Europe. It is imperative to get your civilian or military veterinarian involved early in the process.

The easiest way to avoid hassles for international pet travel is involve your veterinarian early in the process and make sure your pet's rabies vaccination never expires.

The purpose of this document is to familiarize military personnel with the basic requirements and provide them with references for additional information.

TRAVEL FROM THE USA TO AN EU MEMBER STATE

1. The USA is considered an EU favorably listed country. When traveling with a dog, cat or ferret from the USA, the pet must fly on an approved carrier and route directly to the EU. EU Member States require:

a. Implanted identity **Microchip** – pets must have been microchipped prior to their most current rabies vaccination. The microchip used in the EU is different than the microchips used in the USA. Consult with your local veterinarian to determine if your pet needs a different microchip. Another option is to bring your own microchip scanner. Scanners can be purchased or rented. To find one to purchase or rent simply do an internet search for “microchip scanner rental”.

b. Proof of current **Rabies vaccination** - microchip number must be recorded on the rabies vaccination certificate. The rabies vaccine must be an inactivated vaccine produced in accordance with OIE standards. Licensed three-year rabies vaccines are recognized if they are

annotated properly on all documents. If it is the pet's first rabies vaccination, the EU requires a 21 day wait from the date of the vaccination prior to entering an EU country. The rabies vaccination certificate should have the veterinarian's original signature in a color other than black is preferable and if available, have an official practice stamp of the accredited veterinarian.

c. Official International **Veterinary Health Certificate** (EU Form 998 http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/animal_germany.shtml) - microchip number must be recorded on the Health Certificate (HC). It must be printed on one sheet of paper (two-sided), completed in block letters in the language of the EU country of entry and/or in English. Must have the veterinarian's original signature in a color other than black, and must have an official practice stamp of the accredited veterinarian. It is good for entry into the EU and subsequent intra-community movement. This form must be filled out by your accredited veterinarian. If they have questions, they should contact their nearest USDA (Federal) veterinarian.

The HC must be filled out and signed by an accredited veterinarian or U.S. Army Veterinary Corps Officer who certifies the pet's identification and microchip number, vaccination status, health status, conducts tests and records results of those tests. If signed by a civilian veterinarian, it must also be endorsed by a USDA APHIS Veterinary Services Area Office veterinarian in order to be valid. This process is not free and may take up to 7 business days to process. If endorsed by a USDA APHIS veterinarian, a raised USDA stamp must be used in the endorsement block. From the date it is signed or endorsed by the veterinarian, the HC is valid for four months or until the expiry of the rabies vaccination, whichever is earlier. However, some airlines require the HC to be less than ten days old at the time of air travel (see Additional Information paragraph).

In addition to the HC, travelers must also possess supporting documentation. Carry your pet's original vaccination and blood test results (if applicable), or certified copies thereof, which show the microchip number.

To find the nearest USDA APHIS Veterinary Services Area Office that can endorse your civilian veterinarian issued Health Certificate, please go to this website:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/area_offices/

To determine country specific requirements, contact your veterinarian and research the following websites.

a. EU requirements for import of animals from third countries (such as the USA):

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/nocomm_third_en.htm

b. Country specific requirements can be viewed at the following USDA APHIS website:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/>

c. You may wish to contact a specific country's consulate or embassy for their most current information. A listing of consulates can be found on the following U.S. Department of State website:

<http://www.state.gov/s/cpr/rls/fco/>

TRAVEL FROM THE USA OR EU MEMBER STATE TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, IRELAND, SWEDEN, MALTA AND FINLAND

In addition to the microchip, rabies vaccination and HC, these EU Member States have supplementary requirements. Pet owners traveling to the UK, Ireland, Sweden, and Malta must prove rabies vaccination protection via a blood test conducted by an EU approved laboratory and, if required, administer specific antiparasitic treatments against ticks and tapeworms prior to travel. Finland does not require the FAVN test, but does require tick and tapeworm treatment. All veterinary HC of pets entering the UK and Ireland from the USA must be endorsed by a USDA APHIS veterinarian using a raised stamp, regardless of whether or not the HC was originally issued by a U.S. Army Veterinary Corps Officer. Once signed or endorsed by the veterinarian, the HC is valid for four months or until the expiry of the rabies vaccination, whichever is earlier. However, some airlines require the HC to be less than ten days old at the time of air travel (see Additional Information paragraph).

Pets traveling to the UK must fly on approved air transit routes and carriers to arrive as cargo on specific flights at the UK quarantine stations. Owners must have a reservation for their pet at the quarantine station if the animal has not met the UK's 180 day post-FAVN waiting period requirement.

Owners need to coordinate with their military or local veterinarian up to a year in advance to ensure all the proper steps, tests, and treatments are completed in the required sequence (microchip, rabies vaccination, FAVN test, HC, tick & tapeworm treatment), are properly documented, and specific waiting times (rabies vaccination, FAVN, HC, and tick & tapeworm treatment) have been met. These special rules will remain in effect at least through 30 JUN 2010.

Please work with your local veterinarian to ensure that all requirements are met. If your local veterinarian has questions they should contact their nearest USDA (Federal) veterinarian.

1. The **United Kingdom's (UK)** requirements for import of pets can be found at these websites:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk>

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/quarantine/index.htm>

2. **Ireland's** requirements for import of pets can be found at these websites:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie>

<http://www.agriculture.ie/index.jsp?file=pets/index.xml>

3. **Sweden's** requirements for import of pets can be found at these websites:

<http://www.sjv.se/home.4.7502f61001ea08a0c7fff125607.html>

<http://www.sjv.se/home/arnesomraden/animalhealthwelfare/importexportofliveanimals/dogsandcats.4.7502f61001ea08a0c7fff126754.html>

4. **Malta's** requirements for import of pets can be found at these websites:

<http://www.mrae.gov.mt>

<http://www.svscr.cz/files/malta.pdf>

5. **Finland's** requirements for import of pets can be found at these websites:

http://www.evira.fi/portal/en/animals_and_health/import_and_export/
http://wwwb.mmm.fi/el/julk/pdf/Import%20of%20pets%203.7.2004%20_17.5._.pdf

TRAVEL FROM A NON-EU COUNTRY (OTHER THAN THE USA) INTO AN EU MEMBER STATE

When traveling from an EU favored country (for example, Japan) into an EU Member State, the requirements are the same as described for travel from the USA in the paragraphs above. However, if traveling from non-favorably listed countries (for example, Turkey) special rules and requirements apply, to include FAVN testing, for entry into EU Member States. Consult with your veterinarian and reference the following EU website:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/nocomm_third_en.htm

EU PET PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAVEL BETWEEN EU MEMBER STATES AND CERTAIN LISTED COUNTRIES

As of 3 JUL 2008, dogs, cats and ferrets meeting the necessary requirements may move between EU Member States and certain other favorably listed countries and territories if they are accompanied by an EU Pet Passport and have not been outside any of these countries in the past six months. All EU Member States recognize this document.

Having a completed and validated EU Pet Passport will streamline your pet's entry into and between any of the EU countries. It is also a convenient way of keeping your Pet's Health Records in a compact and easily accessible format.

However, official EU Pet Passports only exist in the EU. They are controlled and must be issued by a government authorized EU veterinarian (This means a local civilian veterinarian, not a military veterinarian). Furthermore, there are many accompanying requirements for their issuance. Therefore, they may only be used for EU intra-community travel of US pets once they have already been imported into the EU via the procedures previously described. For more information about pet travel within the EU, contact your local EU veterinarian.

1. Information on European Union (EU) pet import rules (and pet passports):
http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/quarantine/PETS/Regulation/eu_reg.htm
2. Movement of animals within the EU:
http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/nocomm_intra_en.htm

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Airline Travel Restrictions

a. All airlines have different travel restrictions when it comes to safe shipping of animals. Some may not ship animals during certain times of the year or during particularly inclement

weather. Some require an “Acclimation Certificate” (temperature tolerance statement) from your veterinarian stating that your pet should be able to survive the temperatures to which it will be exposed during travel. For most airlines, “Acclimation Certificates” are valid for ten days. In addition, some airlines also require that the pet’s HC be signed within a specified number of days (typically ten) prior to the flight in order to minimize the health risks of transported pets. Typically a HC separate from the EU HC is used for this purpose and can be obtained from your local veterinarian without further endorsement. However, it is best to check with the airline to be sure this is ok.

b. Airlines also have animal transport rules regarding transport cages, feeding, weight allowances, number of animals per flight, etc. Please check with your airline well in advance of travel. The International Airline Transportation Association (IATA) has some useful information concerning transport of pets, including container specifications, at the following website:

http://www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/live_animals/pets.htm

2. Dangerous Dog Laws, Wild and Exotic Animals – Dog/cat breeds, hybrids, and animal species that are considered “Banned” by the destination country will not be granted entry. Additionally, some dog breeds are not completely banned but have additional restrictions for ownership such as temperament testing and wearing of a muzzle when in public. The **UK** and **Germany** are two countries with particularly restrictive dangerous dog laws. Owners should check with the embassy or consulate of the country they are traveling to determine banned or restricted species and breeds.

3. Other Domestic Pets – Other species of pet animals (such as horses, small mammals, birds and reptiles) may have special requirements for entry into the EU, or may not be allowed entry altogether. Owners should consult with their veterinarian and research country specific rules and regulations regarding entry/exit of animals other than dogs, cats, and ferrets.

4. Preventive Health Care

a. Consult with your veterinarian prior to departure and upon arrival for potential pet health risks indigenous to the area of travel. Be aware and take precautions against risk of exposure to infectious diseases and parasites (e.g. heartworm, Leishmaniasis, ticks, etc).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES

These websites contain useful information, but it is best to work with your local veterinarian first. If your local veterinarian has questions, they should contact the nearest USDA veterinarian first.

USDA APHIS

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/>

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/pet_travel/pet_travel.shtml

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/index.shtml

EU Movement of Pets

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/index_en.htm

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm>

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/pri/en/oj/dat/2003/l_146/l_14620030613en00010009.pdf

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2004/l_358/l_35820041203en00120017.pdf

Qualifying EU Listed Countries and Territories for entry into the UK

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/quarantine/pets/procedures/support-info/countries.htm>

Qualifying non-EU listed Countries (EU favorably listed) for entry into the UK

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/quarantine/pets/procedures/support-info/other.htm>

Germany

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/animal_germany.shtml

http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/04__Legal/02__Directory__Services/06__Customs/Pets/__Pets.html

Italy

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/animal_italy.shtml

<http://rome.usembassy.gov/agtrade/files/pets.asp>

Spain

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/animal_spain.shtml

<http://www.maec.es/en/Home/Paginas/Practical%20information.aspx#7>

Belgium

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/animal_belgium.shtml

<http://www.diplobel.org/USA/TravelingBelgium/Pets/CatDogFerret.asp#Traveling>

Turkey

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/animal_turkey.shtml

<http://www.washington.emb.mfa.gov.tr/ConsularServices.aspx?ID=20>

Pet Travel Tips

<http://www.pettravel.com/>

<http://www.pettravel.com/passportnew.cfm>

http://www.pettravel.com/passports_USDA_certification.cfm

http://www.pettravel.com/airline_rules.cfm

http://www.pettravel.com/passports_container_requirements.cfm

http://www.pettravel.com/news_letter.cfm

For Tips on the Actual plane ride itself, please refer to the following links:

Don't sedate your pet information from the following site:

<http://www.avma.org/careforanimals/animatedjourneys/livingwithpets/sedate.asp>

<http://vetcom.amedd.army.mil/vetops/international.html>

Returning to the USA

The Centers for Disease Control regulate the importation of animals into the USA. Please work with your local veterinarian and refer to the following websites.

PETS

Please have your pet's rabies vaccination up to date at least 30 days prior to travel.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/animal/index.htm>

BIRDS

Importing a pet bird into the USA can be a daunting, time consuming, frustrating, and expensive task. All regulations must be adhered to or risk euthanasia of the bird upon entry into the USA. It is imperative to start preparations up to or more than a year in advance. Most small animal veterinarians are not used to working with birds and may not be able to provide much guidance. It is recommended that you work with a veterinarian specializing in birds. Your local veterinarian can give you a reference.

Information on pet bird importation from the following website:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/return_pet_bird.shtml

Safety

Protect Kids Against Dog Bites

It is a little known fact that dog bites are the number one public health problem for children. In fact, school-age children receive more than 47% of all reported dog bites each year. Even more shocking is that two thirds of these incidents happen near the child's home, often by a dog the child knows. To prevent upsetting, or even tragic, situations resulting from encounters with dogs, teach children these important rules about how to behave around dogs.

- Dogs and other animals should always be treated with respect. Dogs do not like to be teased any more than people do. A child should never tease a dog into growling, barking, lunging, or otherwise acting aggressively.
- A dog that is chained or in a fenced yard should always be left alone. Dogs are territorial and may bite if they feel their home is threatened, even if it is by someone they know.
- Do not chase dogs or encourage them to chase you.
- Avoid dogs you do not know. Some dogs will bite when they are afraid, or they might bite to protect themselves or their territory.
- Ask before petting a neighbor's dog -- even if you know the dog well. The dog may be sick and your gentle pat may be painful.
- Don't run and scream around dogs. Quick movements and high-pitched squeals can frighten a dog, and frightened dogs may bite. Do not shout, run around, or stick hands at dogs through fences or open car windows.
- Dogs are possessive and territorial. Never bother dogs while they are eating or in their crate, special room, or special spot in the house or yard. Do not grab things like bones, balls, or other toy's from a dog.
- Don't stare at a dog. To dogs, staring is perceived as a threat, and they may react aggressively toward you.
- Never approach a strange dog.
- Never stick your hand into a dogfight, even if one of the dogs is yours.
- Know what an angry dog looks like. Barking, growling, snarling with teeth showing, ears laid flat, legs stiff, tail up, and hair standing on a dog's back are warning signs. If a dog appears this way, slowly walk away sideways. Shout "No" at the dog and act like the boss.
- Never stare a dog in the eyes or turn around and run away. If a dog attacks, curl up in a ball on the ground and protect your face.
- If bitten, tell an adult right away. Remember what the dog looked like, if it had a collar, and in what direction it went. Wash the wound with soap and water. See a doctor and report the bite to the local health department.
- A recent study reported in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association found the 90% of dog bites are perpetrated by unneutered male dogs.
- *The reward for teaching consideration and respect for animals is children who are both humane and safe.*

SPAY/ NEUTER

Info from why spay or neuter your pet from: <http://www.americanhumane.org/protecting-animals/adoption-pet-care/care/spaying-neutering.html>

WHY SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR PET?

Spaying is a general term used to describe the ovariectomy of a female animal. *Neutering* is a general term used to describe the castration of a male animal. However, neutering is used in reference to both genders. The surgical procedure, performed by a veterinarian, renders the animal incapable of reproducing. Here are answers to some questions you may have about this beneficial procedure.

When can I have this procedure done?

Both procedures can be performed as early as six weeks of age. The American Humane Association is a strong proponent of "early" neutering since this guarantees that the animals will not be able to breed and populate within a community.

Why should I have my pet neutered?

Animal shelters, both public and private, unfortunately are faced with an incredible burden: What to do with the overpopulation of dogs and cats that they cannot find homes for. Estimates across the country indicate that **over 10 million animals** will be humanely euthanized at shelters each year, due to the sheer fact that there are not enough homes. Having your pet neutered ensures that you will not be adding to this tremendous burden.

What are some of the health benefits?

Through neutering, you can help your dog and cat live a happier, healthier, and longer life. Spaying eliminates the constant crying and nervous pacing that is a sign that a cat is in heat. Castration stops the mating drive in males, reducing the urge to roam, which in turn, reduces the risk of fights, injury, poisoning, accidents, and contracting diseases. If you have more than one pet in your household, all the pets will get along better if they are neutered.

A long-term benefit of neutering is improved health. Early neutering, especially prior to the first heat cycle, nearly eliminates breast cancer, and totally prevents uterine infections and uterine and testicular cancer, prostate cancer and nearly eliminates prostatic cysts.

Isn't it true that you only need to "fix" female dogs or cats?

Absolutely not! A male animal can father thousands of offspring in his lifetime. Roaming tomcats fighting other cats are a neighborhood nuisance and are prone to develop infections and abscesses from their fighting. An intact male may also develop the bad habit of marking its territory by urine marking.

Neutering just costs too much!

The cost of caring for a pet, including providing veterinary care, should be considered before acquiring an animal. If you cannot afford the cost of neutering, then you cannot afford a pet. There are budget options available; call your local animal shelter. They will be happy to provide information on low-cost neutering. The costs of having a litter are often more than the cost of neutering. There could be complications requiring hospitalization or surgery. You will be faced with finding homes or keeping the offspring yourself or placing

more animals into your local shelter. The cost of the well-being of not just your companion animal but of future generations should be considered.

Can't I allow my purebred dog to have just one litter?

Mixed breed or purebred -- there just aren't enough homes. Animal shelters receive purebred animals everyday -- in fact upwards of 25% of animals in shelters are purebred! Responsible purebred breeders ensure good homes for their dogs before they are born and ensure that all pet quality dogs are spayed and neutered. However, many times people purchase an animal because it is so cute or they think it is a good gift and that animal, once it grows out of the puppy stage, will be abandoned to the shelters. Largely because owning an animal is demanding and requires a daily commitment as well as a financial commitment and a behavioral/training commitment that most people are not willing to make.

Also, each new owner of a purebred animal will be equally certain that they have a quality purebred pedigreed animal and feel it too must be bred. Therefore, a litter of 8 multiplies into ten and hundreds rapidly. Also, each pup or kitten that goes to a new home insures that an animal in a humane shelter will die rather than go to that home. So a decision to breed a well-cared for animal still greatly contributes to the overwhelming problem of pet overpopulation.

The American Kennel Club's position on breeding is that breeding should be done for the advancement of the breed. If you do not plan to show your dog in AKC Confirmation events, you should have your pet spayed or neutered.

My family and friends all want puppies from my purebred dog. Why shouldn't I breed my dog? Wouldn't it be cheaper?

Just because a dog is purebred is no guarantee of its quality or disposition. Your dog will contribute only 1/2 of the genetic material to a future litter and there is no guarantee the litter will be anything like your beloved pet. 25% of animals in shelters are purebred. There are multiple breed specific rescue organizations looking to place purebred dogs in homes. Breeding your dog will ensure that one of those dogs will not have a home. There are many hidden costs in breeding dogs. If the female has trouble giving birth, the cost of a cesarean section can run anywhere from \$700 to \$3000 and often many of the puppies die. Puppies will need to be dewormed every 2 weeks starting at the age of 2 weeks and will also need a veterinary visit at 6-8 weeks for their first shots. That can be expensive for a litter of 6-8 puppies. There is also the added hassle mess of cleaning up after the birth and the litter of puppies for 6-8 weeks.

If your family and friends are not willing to spend money on the initial investment of a purebred dog, are they really going to be good pet owners? The cost of a dog over its lifetime is over \$10,000. If someone is too cheap to put up a little money up front then it is a realistic expectation for them to provide quality care for the life of the animal? What if the pet gets sick or the owner moves? Are they going to be willing to pay this extra cost?

I'm in Germany; wouldn't this be the best time to get a German Sheppard?

No! Unless you are an experienced dog owner who has thoroughly researched this breed, there couldn't be a worse time to get one of these dogs. Most military members are in Germany because they are going through an active cycle of deployment. This means being shipped off to OIE, or OEF for 12 months or more. The German Sheppard is a beautiful,

strong, hard working dog and the Germans have great reason for this breed to be a source of national pride. There are good reasons this breed comprises most of our Military Working Dog population as well. However, this does not equate to the GSD being a good house pet. The adult weight of these dogs usually ranges from 75-90 lbs and as a working breed; they have an abundance of endurance and energy. If not obedience trained for approximately 30 minutes a day 5 times per week for its first 12 months, these dogs can develop some annoying, destructive and dangerous habits. The dog will also require an hour of strenuous activity daily. A deployed soldier cannot be home to train and exercise the pet, and expecting that responsibility to fall solely on the spouse is too much to ask. It can place tremendous strain on a marriage, and it is often the dog who suffers due to neglect and lack of attention, leading to nuisance barking, chewing, digging, etc. The dog can become unmanageable on a leash and aggressive when not properly socialized. We have all seen MWD demonstrations and know the power of these beautiful animals. It is not a good idea to have older relatives or young children come for a visit only to have the GSD rambunctiously greet them by jumping up and knocking them to the floor causing potential injury.

I don't even own a pet! Why is this my problem?

All of us are affected by animal overpopulation. Millions of tax dollars are spent annually to round up lost, abandoned, and unwanted pets. Much of that money is spent to destroy these animals when homes cannot be found. Health is threatened by the danger of transmittable diseases; including rabies, animal bites, and attacks. Property may be damaged and livestock killed when pets roam in search of food. Animal waste is a serious environment hazard, fouling yards and parks. It is only when all of us assume the responsibility for pet overpopulation that we will see any decrease in the problem.

Isn't it wrong to deprive an animal of the natural right to reproduce?

No, it's wrong to allow these animals to reproduce millions of unwanted offspring that are eventually killed because there aren't enough responsible homes. Also, mating in animals does not involve any emotions – it is really only a 'reflexive' act that the animal will not miss at all.

If I find homes for my pets' litters then I won't contribute to the problem, right?

Wrong. Only a certain number of people want pets. So every home you find for your pet's offspring takes away a home from a loving animal already at a shelter, ensuring the death of another shelter pet. Unless all the pets in the litter are spayed or neuter prior to placement in a home, there is no guarantee that they won't have litters of their own, perpetuating the cycle.

Shouldn't every female pet have at least one litter before being spayed?

No. In fact, your pet will be healthier if she never reproduces or has a heat cycle. Her personality will not improve either. She is just as likely to become less social and more aggressive after having a litter, as she is to become calmer and gentler.

Shouldn't children experience the miracle of birth?

No. A more important lesson to teach your child would be responsible pet ownership and concern for life by explaining why their pet should not have babies. If you want them to experience the miracle of birth, there are many farms and even smaller breeding operations that would happy to have your well behaved and quiet child observe the miracle.

Doesn't neutering alter an animal's personality?

No. Personality changes that may result from neutering are for the better. Not being distracted by the instinctual need to mate helps your pet stop roaming and become calmer; though not less protective of their territory. Also, it is uncommon for neutering to reduce aggression – that requires lots of dedication and work on the part of the owner with the help of a board certified veterinary behaviorist, possibly in combination with pharmacological intervention.

Won't animal shelters take care of the surplus animals?

No. Shelters do their best to place animals in loving homes, but the number of homeless animals far exceeds the number of available homes. This leaves many loving and healthy animals in our community that must be euthanized as the only humane solution to this tragic dilemma. Only responsible, committed, life-long pet ownership combined with spaying and neutering can end the overpopulation problem.

GETTING A PET

Are You Ready?

As soon as you enter an animal shelter or breeding kennel, the temptation to adopt or buy will be very great. That's why it's so important to consider whether bringing an animal into your life is right for you before any adorable faces find their way into your heart.

Far too many animals in this country are initially loved and then neglected or abandoned over time because owners decide -- too late -- that caring for pets is more responsibility than they actually want.

The truth is, adopting a companion animal is a big step -- one that will affect your lifestyle for many years. Have you thought about how a pet will be completely dependent on you for his or her entire life? What will happen if you decide to move? And have you considered whether your lifestyle and personality would make you a better dog owner or cat owner?

HOW LONG IS A LIFETIME?

Knowing that most dogs, with good care, can live to be 15 years or older, and most cats can live to be 18 years or older, it's critical that you consider where you will be 15 to 18 years from now.

- What major changes might happen to you during a pet's lifetime? Marriage? Children? Are you willing to continue spending the time, energy and money to care for your pet when taking on new responsibilities like these? What will you do if your spouse or children can't get along with the pet?
- If you're getting a pet for children you have now, how old will they be in 15 to 18 years? Will you still want this animal after the kids have grown up and moved out?
- Have you previously owned a pet that didn't live with you for 10 or more years? If so, what happened? What will you do differently with this animal to prevent the same thing from happening again?
- Did you know the average cost of owning a cat or dog ranges from \$10,000 to \$20,000 over the lifetime of that pet (14-18yrs)? Pets are never "cheap".

GOING THE DISTANCE

"We're moving" is one of the most common explanations given when owners leave their pets at a shelter. You can imagine how hard it is on an animal to be left behind. Before you adopt a companion animal, consider these factors.

Renting and pets

If you are a renter, it can be very difficult to find a landlord who will allow pets. If you own a pet, you'll have to restrict your choice of apartments to those where animals are allowed, and an extra damage deposit may be required. A dog or cat that is neutered, tagged and well-behaved may help get a negative landlord in a positive mood. However, you must be careful that your cat doesn't shred the drapes or scratch the walls, or that your dog doesn't annoy the neighbors with constant barking.

Expenses

Moving with a pet can be expensive. If you don't have a place to live lined up, you may have to board your animal at a kennel in the new area while you look around. If you fly to your destination, air freight charges, the cost of a sturdy pet carrier and the expense of a visit to the veterinarian for a health certificate all add up.

The hard truth

If you don't want to deal with the difficulties or expense of moving with your pet, don't adopt one in the first place. Save yourself the guilt and heartbreak of leaving part of the family behind, and save an animal the sadness and confusion of being rejected.

If you've weighed the pros and cons of companion animal guardianship for more than a week or two and determined that you're ready, congratulations! You are ready.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT PET FOR YOU

IS A CAT RIGHT FOR YOU?

While cats make purr-fect pets for some people, they don't for others. Cats are dependent on their owners for all their needs -- food, water, medical attention, exercise, shelter, and, most important, companionship. For many people, the years of unconditional love and devotion they receive from their furry "kids" far outweigh the daily responsibilities. But for others, their lifestyles make it impossible.

If you have decided that a feline would fit perfectly into your family, there are still more things to consider...

Do you want a kitten or an adult cat?

This is especially important to decide before you get to the shelter. The attraction of tiny mewling kittens is hard to resist, but kittens need a lot of attention and will have to be house-trained. On the plus side, kittens adapt quickly to their surroundings. For many people, an adult cat is a wise choice, especially if they are at work all day or would not enjoy the boisterous antics of a kitten.

What is your preferred coat length?

Do you want a cat with long, medium, or short hair? Long-haired cats require almost daily brushing to keep their fur from matting, so be prepared to spend regular time grooming these cats.

Do you want a male cat or a female cat?

Both male and female felines can be equally playful and affectionate! Gender is based purely on personal preference!

YOU MAY BE THE PERFECT CAT OWNER IF YOU . . .

- Believe caring for a pet for 15 to 18 years does not seem like a lifetime.
- Realize that a cat can cost over \$10,000 over the course of its lifespan.
- Look forward to having your ankles rubbed by an affectionate, hairy animal.
- Don't mind sharing your house with someone who sheds, tracks kitty litter and throws up hairballs.

- Don't mind sharing your house with someone who will never clean up after him or herself.
- Love a housemate who will randomly and regularly entertain you with outrageous and silly antics (at his whim, not yours).
- Want to take care of someone every day.
- Like your lap warmed whenever you sit down.
- Would like to spend your extra money on pet food, toys, veterinary care, kitty litter and more kitty litter.
- Want to be welcomed with a soft purr of appreciation.
- Believe that spaying and neutering pets will help solve the pet overpopulation problem.
- Can't imagine leaving your devoted pet behind when you move.
- Want to keep an ID tag and microchip on your pets, so they can always get back to you no matter what.
- Enjoy unconditional love and constant companionship.
- Believe that keeping your cat indoors is best for your pet's well-being.

IS A DOG RIGHT FOR YOU?

Maybe you've heard dog owners say, "Having a dog is like having a child who never grows up." This statement often brings skeptical looks from people who have never shared their lives with a dog, but those who have know only too well how true it is.

Like children, dogs are completely dependent on their owners for all their needs -- food, water, medical attention, exercise, shelter and, most important, companionship. But unlike children, dogs will never learn to pour themselves a drink or fix their breakfast. Dogs never learn to look both ways before crossing the street, and they can't stop and ask for directions if they get lost. You can't even send them to the babysitter when you need a night off.

People who decide to open their homes to a dog are making a decision to change their daily lives and routines. For many, the years of companionship and unconditional love and devotion they receive from their dog far outweigh the daily responsibilities, but some lifestyles just make it impossible.

If you decide that a canine would fit perfectly into your family, there are more things to consider...

What are you looking for in a dog?

Always consider the qualities and personality you want, before size and appearance. For example, a large shepherd-mix might do better than a more energetic terrier in an apartment. Think about your lifestyle and habits and determine which breed is best suited to you. Know everything you want in a dog except what the animal looks like. Very often the pet that has the qualities you are looking for will come in an unexpected package.

YOU MAY BE THE PERFECT DOG OWNER IF YOU . . .

- Believe caring for a dog for 15 years does not seem like a lifetime.
- Be willing to spend 15-30 minutes a day for the first year of your puppy's life on training, and attend obedience classes.
- Realize that a dog can cost over \$10,000 over the course of its lifespan.
- Look forward to big, wet kisses when you come home each day.

- Like sharing your house with someone who sheds, tracks dirt occasionally and possibly drools.
- Don't mind sharing your house with someone who will never clean up after him or herself.
- Want to take care of someone every day.
- Love a playmate who likes to chase balls and drag off shoes.
- Don't mind a playmate who likes to slobber on balls and toys.
- Would like to spend your extra money on pet food, toys, veterinary care, chew bones and more chew bones.
- Want someone to adore you even on a bad hair day.
- Believe that spaying and neutering pets will help solve the pet overpopulation problem.
- Can't imagine leaving your devoted pet behind when you move.
- Want to keep an ID tag and microchip on your pets, so they can always get back to you no matter what.
- Enjoy unconditional love and constant companionship

WHAT ABOUT OTHER OPTIONS FOR PETS?

POCKET PETS

After reading the above information you may decide that a dog or a cat is not the right pet for you or your family because of the time and expense and hassle involved for international travel for military members.

Pocket pets:

Please consider a rat, gerbil, hamster, guinea pig, or rabbit as pet. These pets can be very social and even trainable, see link.

<http://www.petplace.com/small-mammals/training-your-pocket-pet/page1.aspx>

- They have the advantage of lower initial and maintenance costs and lower veterinary bills. (Usually, not always.)
- They have a shorter lifespan (2-7yrs) and thus do not require the 14+ year lifetime commitment that a dog or cat does. This makes them a perfect introductory pet for families with smaller children. If the family cannot find the time to properly care for and enjoy interaction with a pocket pet, then a traditional cat or dog would definitely not be suitable. Letting a child own a pocket pet prior to getting a cat or a dog can help a parent determine if that child is mature enough to care for a cat or dog.

Purebred vs. Mixed Breed

PURE BRED - *Advantages*

- Temperament - A pure bred pet has been painstakingly bred for certain qualities. By researching a breed and talking to breed clubs and breeders, you will have a good idea of what the temperament of a breed will be.
- Size - A breeder should be able to tell you what size the puppy will be as an adult within 10%. Size is a serious consideration for most people.
- Traits - If you have specific needs, i.e. small children, watchdog, hunting etc., a pure bred pet will be easier to predict and train.

PURE BRED - *Disadvantages*

- Cost - Pure bred pets cost significantly more. Unless you are a breeder, papers only insure quality blood lines and offer no other value (we don't count prestige).
- Hereditary Diseases - Close breeding to produce physical and temperament traits multiplies the incidence of genetically transmitted defects (such as hip dysphasia, progressive retinal atrophy and Von Willebrands disease). The best breeders reduce these risks, but can not guarantee against them. These conditions can be painful for you and the pet and very costly.
- Pet Overpopulation - Each time a pure bred pet is purchased, one more loving homeless pet is put to sleep.
- Theft - A pure bred pet is more likely to be stolen or kept if found.

MIXED BREED - *Advantages*

- Cost - Mixed bred pets can be adopted at a very low cost.
- Health - There is a lower incidence of genetic defects.
- Traits - Although less predictable than pure bred dogs, mixed breed dogs often have unusual, wonderful traits.
- Life - When adopting from a humane agency, you are giving life to an otherwise doomed pet. Always consider giving a second chance to a forgotten friend.

MIXED BREED - *Disadvantages*

- Unpredictable - Size, traits and temperament are far less predictable (in some cases such as a lab/retriever mix, the dog is somewhat predictable). A mixed breed owner should be more open to unexpected traits and willing to train properly to control them.

Backyard vs. Reputable Breeder

BEFORE YOU BUY..... Research the breed. Interview several breeders. Expect the breeders to interview you.

A responsible breeder will put the best interests of her breed and her individual dogs first. She will breed in accordance with sound, ethical breeding practices. A responsible breeder will breed with one goal in mind: to produce sound, healthy dogs that contribute to the preservation and improvement of the breed. In so doing a responsible breeder will:

1. Carefully and honestly assess the strengths and weaknesses of the Breeding partners to insure a positive contribution to the breed.
2. Be knowledgeable about the breed and the genetic flaws prevalent in the breed. Use available health screening and genetic testing to guard against such flaws and provide certification of same; i.e., OFA or Penn Hip certification, CERF, thyroid screening, etc.
3. Educate the buyer about the positive AND negative aspects of the breed and share her knowledge and experience with the buyer throughout the lifetime of the dog.
4. Take great care in selecting the best possible homes for her puppies. She will ask questions about your family, work schedule and lifestyle as well as your interests and goals for the puppy. Where possible she may want to meet the entire family and do a home visit. She make ask for references.
5. Welcome your questions and invite you to inspect the environment in which the puppies are raised. She will not suggest meeting you in a

WHAT TO LOOK FOR..... Choose your breeder as you would choose a friend. Then, let your breeder help you select the best puppy for your home and your needs. Be patient. Ask to be put on the breeder's waiting list if no puppies are immediately available. Bringing a new puppy into your home is a lifetime commitment and the decision should be as important as the decision to give birth to or adopt a child.

1. Is the breeder a member in good standing of her national breed club and/or local breed club?
2. How much experience has she had breeding dogs? Is she knowledgeable about the breed? How many breeds does she have?
3. Are the breeder's puppies and adults maintained in a clean, healthy environment? Is there adequate shelter? Are the puppies home raised by the breeder or are they raised by another individual off the breeder's premises? Can you visit the puppies where the puppies are raised?
4. Is all breeding stock healthy and temperamentally sound? Are you permitted to see at least one parent and other relatives of the puppies?
5. Are the puppies well socialized and accustomed to handling?
6. Is evidence of genetic screening freely provided?
7. At what age are puppies placed in new homes, what information is provided regarding shot records, general care and feeding? Be aware that some state laws require that puppies must be 8 weeks old and have at least one shot before being transferred to a new owner.

- parking lot, at a dog show or any other "off site" location.
6. Offer a health guarantee and stand ready to assist you in dealing with any unusual or inherited problems. A responsible breeder will take responsibility for the well-being of her pups for their lifetime. Therefore she will require that puppies later given up by Their owners be returned to her for placement in a new home. At the very least she will assist you in finding an appropriate second home for the dog.
 7. Seek to insure a lifetime home for her puppies by discouraging hasty decisions. She will suggest instead that you take some time to evaluate her as a breeder, her dogs and your own needs before reserving one of her puppies.
 8. Be aware that AKC rules require that the breeder keep accurate records of all transfers and that the breeder provides the new owner with a registration application (blue form) at the time of transfer. Is this provided?
 9. Does the breeder offer a health & hip guarantee? Is she willing to take the dog back if you are unable to keep it?
 10. Does she offer breed information and assistance? Does she encourage owners to investigate the unique qualities of the breed and various activities that will promote the dog's physical and mental development?

Pet Etiquette Do's and Don't's

At Home

Do's

- Greet your pet calmly when coming home from work
- Keep your yard picked up of dog waste daily
- Clean litter boxes daily
- Warn house guests that you have a pet/s prior to their arrival in case arrangements have to be made due to allergies or other reasons
- Coach guests how to properly greet your pet prior to their arrival
- Make sure that all household members and guests use the same set of rules when interacting with the pet so as not to send confusing and mixed messages
- Bath your dog regularly to prevent doggie smell
- Exercise your pet 30-60 minutes daily
- Brush your pets teeth with pet specific toothpaste three times per week
- Learn to trim you pet's nails and keep them trimmed every 4-6 weeks
- Brush your pets coat at least weekly and prevent matting
- Socialize your pet with people and other pets at least 3 times weekly.
- Research and learn about your pet, their behavior, training, and care; this is every pet owners responsibility

Don't's

- Reward your dog for jumping up on you with attention or affection; simply ignore your dog when he or she is overexcited
- Play rough with your dog; letting your dog use their mouth on you or any friend or family member sends the wrong message to your dog and can lead to biting
- Feed your pet at the table; this will always lead to annoying begging behavior, and is potentially embarrassing when company comes
- Overfeed your pet; obesity in pets is now at epidemic levels; learn from your veterinarian what is the proper weight for your pet
- Allow your pet to roam the neighborhood or be unsupervised in an unfenced yard
- Treat your dog like a human child; this will only confuse your pet and lead to aggression and fear; this is especially true in small and toy breed dogs
- Allow nuisance/excessive barking

In Public

Do's

- Carry a plastic or other bag to clean up after your dog when walking them; leaving a pile of feces on the sidewalk or in someone else's yard is a big no no and is not socially acceptable
- Teach your pet to walk calmly by your side on a loose leash
- Carry treats to reward good behavior

- Call ahead to restaurants if you are considering bring your pet to make sure it is ok; and don't use it as a training opportunity, your dog should be very well behaved in public before considering taking them to a restaurant.
- Inform other sidewalk users that your dog is friendly or if they are skittish let others know that your pet requires a gentle approach from strangers
- Carry water for your dog
- Practice obedience rules and commands with frequent rewards

Don't's

- Use flexi leads; they do not offer enough control and can actually teach your pet to pull; they also are unsafe because they do not prevent a pet from running into the street unexpectedly
- Use a harness unless you are purposely trying to teach your pet to pull or you are directed to because of a medical condition your pet has
- Allow your pet to jump on or lick strangers
- Bark excessively
- Bark at pedestrians, livestock, or cyclists while in the car or otherwise
- Allow your male dog to urine mark
- Approach other dogs without asking permission
-

At the Veterinarian's Office

Do's

- Offer to pick up after your pet if he or she has an accident
- Be prepared. Bring a recent feces sample if your pet has been having diarrhea; bring in past records of shots or medications if necessary
- Keep your pet on a short leash. Lock that flexi-lead!
- Prepare your pet for the visit by coming in on days prior to the appointment to familiarize your pet with the clinic and make it a positive experience
- Practice playing doctor at home with your pet by asking them to let you look in their ears, mouth, belly, and under their tail; practicing this with a friend can help ease your pet's anxiety during the real thing. Practice on a table for medium and small breeds
- Make arrangements to leave children under 8 yrs old at home; the veterinary clinic is not a zoo and can be a dangerous place for small children because not all pets are friendly and not all owners have full control of their animals
- Turn off your cell phone when interacting with the veterinary staff
- Call at least 24hours in advance if you have to cancel
- Tell the staff if your pet is aggressive or requires a muzzle
- Bring special treats to reward good behavior
- Call 1 week ahead prior to picking up prescriptions or prescription diets to be sure the product is in stock

Don't's

- Expect the appointment to be less than 10-20 minutes for a sick call appointment

- Expect the doctor or technician to have the time available to look at problems other than the problem your pet has the appointment for; if there are other problems you may have to make another appointment
- Allow your pet to urine mark in the clinic
- Expect the staff to put themselves at risk if you have an unruly pet
- Expect an instantaneous cure for your pet; this is real medicine and many conditions and illnesses can require multiple visits and sometimes second opinions and referrals

Behavior & Training

When people think about training an animal, they often imagine tricks and performances. But training a pet goes beyond just showing off his talents and intelligence.

The good news is that many of these behavior problems can be improved with a little patience and understanding -- and some training.

Look to the box to the right for information on specific issues you might be dealing with. But before you get started, consider these three steps:

Step 1:

Rule out any physical or medical reasons for your pet's problems. Take your pet to the veterinarian for a complete physical and lab tests. This is especially important for sudden aggression and house-soiling issues. Your pet could have a medical condition that a veterinarian needs to diagnose as soon as possible.

Step 2:

Once you rule out any medical causes, determine if you can resolve the issue on your own. Refer to the information at the right.

Step 3:

Ask for help. In some cases, assistance from a professional may be the best solution. Contact your local humane society, animal shelter, veterinary clinic or other pet professional to find a training consultant in your area. Or, check out the resources here:

- [Animal Behavior Society](http://www.animalbehavior.org/ABSAppliedBehavior/caab-directory) : <http://www.animalbehavior.org/ABSAppliedBehavior/caab-directory>
- [Association of Pet Dog Trainers](http://apdt.com/po/ts/default.aspx) : <http://apdt.com/po/ts/default.aspx>
- [International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants](http://www.iaabc.org/) : <http://www.iaabc.org/>
- [American College of Veterinary Behaviorists](http://dacvb.org/about-us/diplomates/diplomate-directory/) : <http://dacvb.org/about-us/diplomates/diplomate-directory/>
- Association of Pet Dog Trainers : <http://apdt.com/po/ts/default.aspx>
- [American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior](http://www.avsabonline.org/avsabonline/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=79&Itemid=357) : http://www.avsabonline.org/avsabonline/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=79&Itemid=357

Crate Training Your Dog

A great way to make travel less stressful for your pet.

(Perfect for military families!)

Crate training your dog may take some time and effort, but can be useful in a variety of situations. If you have a new dog or puppy, you can use the crate to limit his access to the house until he learns all the house rules, such as what he can and can't chew and where he can and can't eliminate. A crate is also a safe way of transporting your dog in the car, as well as a way of taking him places where he may not be welcome to run freely. If you properly train your dog to use the crate, he will think of it as his safe place and will be happy to spend time there when needed. Always provide water for your dog anytime he is in the crate. Spill proof bowls or bowls that attach to the kennel gate work best.

Selecting a Crate

Crates may be plastic (often called "flight kennels") or collapsible, metal pens. Collapsible fabric kennels are designed for use when the owner is present and may not contain a dog for long periods while unsupervised.

Crates come in different sizes and can be purchased at most pet supply stores. Your dog's crate should be large enough for him to stand up and turn around in.

The Crate Training Process

Crate training can take days or weeks, depending on your dog's age, temperament and past experiences. It's important to keep two things in mind while crate training; one, the crate should always be associated with something pleasant; and two, training should take place in a series of small steps – don't go too fast.

Step 1: Introducing Your Dog To The Crate

- Put the crate in an area of your house where the family spends a lot of time, such as the family room. Put a soft blanket or towel in the crate. Bring your dog over to the crate and talk to him in a happy tone of voice. Make sure the crate door is securely fastened open so it won't hit your dog and frighten him.
- To encourage your dog to enter the crate, drop small food treats near it, then just inside the door, and finally, all the way inside the crate. If he refuses to go all the way in at first, that's okay – don't force him to enter. Continue tossing treats into the crate until your dog will walk calmly all the way into the crate to get the food. If he isn't interested in treats, try tossing a favorite toy in the crate. This step may take a few minutes or as long as several days.

Step 2: Feeding Your Dog His Meals In The Crate

- After introducing your dog to the crate, begin feeding him his regular meals near the crate. This will create a pleasant association with the crate. If your dog is readily entering the crate when you begin Step 2, put the food dish all the way at the back of the crate. If your dog is still reluctant to enter the crate, put the dish only as far inside as he will readily go without becoming fearful or anxious. Each time you feed him, place the dish a little further back in the crate.
- Once your dog is standing comfortably in the crate to eat his meal, you can close the door while he's eating. At first, open the door as soon as he finishes his meal. With each successive feeding,

leave the door closed a few minutes longer, until he's staying in the crate for 10 minutes or so after eating. If he begins to whine to be let out, you may have increased the length of time too quickly. Next time, try leaving him in the crate for a shorter time period. If he does whine or cry in the crate, it's imperative that you not let him out until he stops. Otherwise, he'll learn that the way to get out of the crate is to whine and he'll keep doing it.

Step 3: Conditioning Your Dog To The Crate For Longer Time Periods

- After your dog is eating his regular meals in the crate with no sign of fear or anxiety, you can confine him there for short time periods while you're home. Call him over to the crate and give him a treat. Give him a command to enter, such as, "kennel up." Encourage him by pointing to the inside of the crate with a treat in your hand. After your dog enters the crate, praise him, give him the treat and close the door. Sit quietly near the crate for five to 10 minutes and then go into another room for a few minutes. Return, sit quietly again for a short time, then let him out of the crate.

- Repeat this process several times a day. With each repetition, gradually increase the length of time you leave him in the crate and the length of time you're out of his sight. Once your dog will stay quietly in the crate for about 30 minutes with you out of sight the majority of the time, you can begin leaving him crated when you're gone for short time periods and/or letting him sleep there at night. This may take several days or several weeks.

Step 4:

Part A – Crating Your Dog When Left Alone

After your dog is spending about 30 minutes in the crate without becoming anxious or afraid, you can begin leaving him crated for short periods when you leave the house. Put him in the crate using your regular command and a treat. You might also want to leave him with a few safe toys in the crate. You'll want to vary at what point in your "getting ready to leave" routine you put your dog in the crate. Although he shouldn't be crated for a long time before you leave, you can crate him anywhere from five to 20 minutes prior to leaving.

Don't make your departures emotional and prolonged, but matter-of-fact. Praise your dog briefly, give him a treat for entering the crate and then leave quietly. When you return home, don't reward your dog for excited behavior by responding to him in an excited, enthusiastic way. Keep arrivals low key. Continue to crate your dog for short periods from time to time when you're home so he doesn't associate crating with being left alone.

Part B – Crating Your Dog at Night

Put your dog in the crate using your regular command and a treat. Initially, it may be a good idea to put the crate in your bedroom or nearby in a hallway, especially if you have a puppy. Puppies often need to go outside to eliminate during the night, and you'll want to be able to hear your puppy when he whines to be let outside. Older dogs, too, should initially be kept nearby so that crating doesn't become associated with social isolation. Once your dog is sleeping comfortably through the night with his crate near you, you can begin to gradually move it to the location you prefer. Puppies that are healthy can have their water taken from them a few hours before bedtime to help decrease the frequency of potty trips they need to make during the night.

Potential Problems

Too Much Time in The Crate

A crate isn't a magical solution. If not used correctly, a dog can feel trapped and frustrated. For example, if your dog is crated all day while you're at work and then crated again all night, he's spending too much time in too small a space. Other arrangements should be made to accommodate his physical and emotional needs. Also, remember that puppies under 6 months of

age shouldn't stay in a crate for more than three or four hours at a time. They can't control their bladders and bowels for longer periods.

Whining

If your dog whines or cries while in the crate at night, it may be difficult to decide whether he's whining to be let out of the crate, or whether he needs to be let outside to eliminate. If you followed the training procedures outlined above, your dog hasn't been rewarded for whining in the past by being released from his crate. Try to ignore the whining. If your dog is just testing you, he'll probably stop whining soon. Yelling at him or pounding on the crate will only make things worse. If the whining continues after you've ignored him for several minutes, use the phrase he associates with going outside to eliminate. If he responds and becomes excited, take him outside.

This should be a trip with a purpose, not play time. If you're convinced that your dog doesn't need to eliminate, the best response is to ignore him until he stops whining. Do not give in, otherwise you'll teach your dog to whine loud and long to get what he wants. If you've progressed gradually through the training steps, and haven't done too much too fast, you will be less likely to encounter this problem. If the problem becomes unmanageable, you may need to start the crate training process over again.

Separation Anxiety

Attempting to use the crate as a remedy for separation anxiety will not solve the problem. A crate may prevent your dog from being destructive, but he may injure himself in an attempt to escape from the crate. Separation anxiety problems can only be resolved with counter-conditioning and desensitization procedures.

How to Choose a Dog Trainer



Training your dog should be fun! A skilled and professional dog trainer employs humane training methods which are not harmful to the dog and/or handler.

A competent instructor will allow and encourage you to observe a class prior to making the decision to enroll. In a well-run class, dogs and people will be enjoying themselves and having a successful learning experience. Look for an instructor who is approachable and who encourages participants to have a good time. If space permits, an instructor should welcome and encourage all family members and others who interact with the dog to attend class.

A skilled class instructor will:

1. Provide a clear explanation of each lesson.
2. Demonstrate the behavior(s) that students will be teaching to their dogs.
3. Provide clear instructions and written handouts on how to teach the behavior(s).
4. Give students ample time in class to begin practicing the day's lesson.
5. Assist students individually with proper implementation of techniques.

A skilled and professional trainer will encourage dialogue and be courteous to both canine and human clients alike.

A skilled and professional dog trainer employs humane training methods which are not harmful to the dog and/or handler...

You want to be comfortable with the training tools and methods used by the instructor. A skilled and professional dog trainer employs humane training methods which are not harmful to the dog and/or handler, and avoids the practices of hanging, beating, kicking, shocking, and all similar procedures or training devices that could cause the dog great pain, distress, or that have imminent potential for physical harm. You have the absolute right to stop any trainer or other animal care professional who, in your opinion, is causing your dog undue harm or distress.

A conscientious trainer will stay informed about innovations in dog training and behavior tools and techniques. Check to see if the instructor is a member of any educational organizations such as the APDT, and whether s/he pursues ongoing educational opportunities.

A good instructor will take care to protect your dog's health in a group setting. Ask if dogs and puppies are required to be vaccinated prior to class and, if so, which vaccines are required. Make sure you and your veterinarian are comfortable with the vaccination requirements.

Current clients are a valuable source of information for you. Attending a group class gives you the opportunity to ask clients how they feel about their experience - if they are enjoying the class and feel that their training needs and goals are being met.

Because of variables in dog breeding and temperament and owner commitment and experience, a trainer cannot and should not guarantee the results of his/her training. However, an instructor can and should be willing to ensure client satisfaction with his/her professional services.

BEHAVIOR BOOKS:

Title: *How To Behave So Your Dog Behaves*--A practical and intelligent guide for dog owners

Author: Sophia Yin, DVM

Reviewed by E. Kathryn Meyer, VMD

The first thing that engaged me in Sophia Yin's *How To Behave So Your Dog Behaves* was its title. As a veterinarian who treats behavioral problems in dogs and cats exclusively, I strive to teach my clients that we can't use a magic wand to eradicate unwanted behavior in dogs. We have to first understand the behavior and then devise methods of changing the behavior in a positive way—usually by giving the dog a good reason to engage in an acceptable alternative behavior. If we read our dogs correctly, we can teach them what is desired and then use motivators specific to our individual dog and situation to reinforce the right stuff. Dr. Yin's book is aptly titled and provides a wealth of science-based information translated into witty and easily understood language, accompanied by helpful and charming illustrations.

To build a foundation of basic dog knowledge, Dr. Yin first educates the reader about the origin of dogs, their social behavior, and body language. Then, she introduces and explains the science of learning, its potential and its limitations. But the real gold mine for dog owners lies in the *Five-Minute Guides* covered in the last two sections of the book on *Basic Good Dog Behavior* and *Solving Common Canine Problems*. The first section gives the reader explicit instructions on how to teach very specific behaviors that are incredibly important to having a well-behaved, well-adjusted dog. The recommendations for "Say Please by Sitting" and "Walk Nicely on Leash" are the most effective tools I've encountered for creating a well-mannered dog—substituting specific and acceptable behaviors for unruly behaviors that are often unknowingly reinforced by owners. (Do you look at, speak to, and/or touch your dog when he jumps up on you? Bingo—you're rewarding that behavior!) Methods to train other very important basic behaviors, such as learning to focus on the owner with "Watch Me," coming when called, staying, and going to "your place" are also thoroughly described.

In addition to covering the prevention of problems, Dr. Yin also devotes a section to solving some common behavioral issues encountered by dog owners. The problems are briefly described and recommendations are outlined for such topics as Housetraining, Chew Training, Food Possessiveness, Aggression Toward Non-Family Members, and Barking.

For the intellectually curious, this book provides the reader with a goldmine of information about the natural behavior of dogs, learning theory, and applied animal behavior. Of particular note is the inclusion of two landmark scientific papers on animal learning by Keller and Marian Breland (1951, 1961), in their entirety, in an Appendix.

Dr. Yin prefaces these articles by giving a brief historical perspective of "How the Science of Learning Made it to Animal Trainers" and then whets the reader's appetite by providing an interview with Marian and her second husband, Bob Bailey. I would encourage anyone with even a flicker of curiosity about animals and how they interface with their environment to read this section—paying particular attention to how the 10 years of experience training thousands of animals changed the outlook of the authors in terms of the role of instinct and limitations to learning.

If you are more utilitarian in your approach to reading this book, it will still be of great use to you. The reader can simply consult the “Five-Minute Guide” section on common behavioral problems to learn about a specific issue. A glossary is also provided, which will help the reader understand terms that may be unfamiliar. However, I would strongly urge the reader to review the entire *Guide to Basic Good Dog Behavior* section prior to addressing specific problems for best results.

“How to Behave So Your Dog Behaves” is a fabulous resource for every dog owner. All of the tools you need to allow your dog to be the best dog (and best behaved dog) he can be are at your fingertips. These approaches are truly a “win/win” for dog and owner alike.

Title: *And Baby Makes Four: A Trimester-by-trimester Guide to a Baby-friendly Dog*

Author: Penny Scott-Fox

Year Published: 2007

Publisher: TFH Publications

Review: I didn't want to assume that I already know everything I need to know about preparing my dogs for the arrival of a baby, but after reading this book, I guess I feel like I'm doing everything the way I should. The information is practical, common-sense, and easy to apply. Also very important!! I think the author covers all the main points well. Might be nice if it included a CD of baby sounds, but I already bought one from Dogwise:

www.dogwise.com/itemdetails.cfm?ID=DTB865 Sounds Good CD – Babies by Terry Ryan.

Review by:

J.C. Burcham, DVM

Olathe Animal Hospital

Olathe, KS

Title: *The Canine Commandments*

Author: Kendal Shepherd, BVSc, CCAB, MRCVS

What a joy it was to read Dr. Shepherd's whimsically illustrated but scientifically spot-on children's book, *The Canine Commandments*. The 33-page hardcover book is designed to be read together by child and parent; however, children over the age of 12 would certainly be able to read it on their own. The thoughtful “Introduction for Parents” reviews current statistics related to dog bites and suggests that most dog bites to children could be avoided if children understood dogs and behaved differently as a consequence of this understanding.

Ostensibly, the goal of the book is reduce dog bites to children by educating children through their parents. However, as a veterinarian who treats hundreds of dogs a year for aggression, it is clear that many adults also could benefit from the simple and straightforward recommendations included in this jewel of a book. For example, Commandment Number One is “Being Cross Does Not Make You The Boss.” Dr. Shepherd does the dogs of the world a great service by starting with this topic. Sadly, there has been resurgence in popular culture of dominance theory applied to dog training. At it's simplest and most damaging, this school of

thought suggests all dog misbehavior is a direct consequence of a dog failing to recognize who's boss and purposely flaunting authority. The First Canine Commandment gives a concise and understandable explanation of why this approach to dog training is scientifically invalid and how it can contribute to forcing a dog to bite out of fear and self-defense.

Some of the commandments will be familiar to readers who have even the most cursory knowledge of dog behavior. These include "Never hit or kick a dog," "Do not touch a dog you do not know," "Do not tease or deliberately excite a dog," and "Do not take anything away from a dog". Clearly, any book designed to decrease dog bites must include this basic information.

However, Dr. Shepherd includes more advanced concepts to aid in a deep understanding of dog behavior, rather than simply relying on a list of Do's and Don'ts. For example, Commandment Number Six: "Dogs do not know the difference between right and wrong." Ninety percent of my adult clients do not really grasp this concept, which is key to understanding dogs. The corollary Commandment Number Seven, "Behaviors that dogs enjoy will be repeated" introduces the young reader to the concept of positive reinforcement. And Commandment Number Eight "Dogs must be taught what you want them to do and they must choose to do it" puts the onus on us, as human beings, to compassionately educate our dogs on what they SHOULD do, rather than expecting them to just "know" and punishing them for doing it the wrong way. And, we should then make sure they are adequately motivated to do these activities, rather than expecting them to just want to make us happy.

One of the most advanced commandments offered, and arguably the most important is Commandment Number Ten, "When dogs are being 'bad', they need the most help, not the most punishment." Dr. Shepherd does a lovely job of pointing out how 'bad' is relative, and usually simply means the dog has done something to upset us. However, the dog does not share our human perspective and may have a very difficult time making sense of what makes us happy and what makes us angry.

At the end of the book, a "Ladder of Aggression" is presented, with artist Victor Ambrus's charming and educational rendition of canine body language. The ladder starts with signs of discomfort (yawning, blinking, nose, licking, and turning head away) and illustrates the progression of anxiety up through biting. My only small complaint is the title of this ladder. Perhaps it might have better been named the "Ladder of worry." Most of the canine body language on the lower 2/3 of the ladder are appeasing signals or avoidance mechanisms, designed to avoid aggressive encounters. However, I understand Dr. Shepherd's excellent point that if people recognize the dog's early signals of discomfort and take measures to relieve the dog's distress (usually simply backing off), the ultimate biting behavior can be avoided.

Dr. Shepherd has provided the dog-owning community a great service with this endearing book. Both parent and child are likely to take away some very valuable lessons from this delightful read. If we wish to reduce the incidence of dog bites to children and improve the quality of life for both dogs and owners, this is an excellent place to start.

Note: Veterinarians are not referred to as "doctor" in the UK but I have used the title in this book review as we do refer to veterinarians as doctors in the US.

Title: *The Cautious Canine: How to Help Dogs Conquer their Fears*

Author: Patricia B. McConnell

Year Published: 2005 (2nd Ed.)

Publisher: Dog's Best Friend, Ltd

Review: This is a little book (30 pages) that can make a huge difference in the life of a fearful dog. Dr. McConnell's book is written in very easy to understand language, with a great sense of humor and a genuine love for dogs. It offers a common sense approach to solving problem behaviors. The methods are always fair to the dog and easy to understand and apply. Yes, you have to do the work, but the tools are all there for you, and they work. As one dog owner said after reading this book, "When I take my dog where other dogs might be (which I HAVE to do if we are to master this fear), then sometimes I'm not going to be able to predict every possible dog rounding a corner. McConnell, rather than saying, don't let this happen to you, says if it does, here's what to do and make it a better experience, too, and a learning one as well."

Review by:

J.C. Burcham, DVM

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